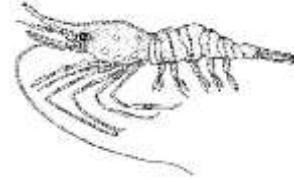


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Maria Wessel, Shellfish Management Biologist

Cordova Area Office
P.O. Box 669
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Phone: (907) 424-3212
Fax: (907) 424-3235

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FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL SHRIMP POT FISHERY SEASON AND VESSEL POT LIMITS EMERGENCY ORDER 2-SF-E-01-13

SEASON, PERIODS, AREA, AND GEAR

Registration for the Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E commercial shrimp pot fishery closed at 5:00 p.m. April 1 with 89 vessels registered to harvest the 66,300 lb guideline harvest level (GHL). **Gear limits are initially set at a maximum of 30 shrimp pots per vessel. Hours of gear operation are set by emergency order at 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The area open to commercial fishing includes waters north of 60° 40.00' N. lat. and east of 148° 00.00' W. long., as described in 5 AAC 31.210(a)(3), with certain waters closed to commercial fishing as described in regulation 5 AAC 31.235(a)(3) and depicted on the map that accompanied the vessel registration. Because 5 AAC 31.214 limits harvest in any one statistical area to no more than 25% (16,575 lb) of the overall GHL, statistical areas will be closing independently within the open area. This announcement covers the first three periods of the fishing season.

The first period of the PWS commercial shrimp pot fishing season will open at 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 15, and will close at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 18.

The harvest in statistical area 476036 was 60% (33,050 lb) of the overall GHL (55,000 lb) in 2010, the last time the fishery was prosecuted in this area. Because of the regulation that came into effect last season limiting harvest to 25% of the GHL in one statistical area, **statistical area 476036 will close following the first fishing period and will remain closed through the second and third periods, to manage the fishery within regulation limits.**

A second period will open at 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 22 and will close at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 25.

A third period will open at 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 29 and will close at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

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Additional announcements may be made regarding closures of individual statistical areas or specific waters and adjustments to gear limits or hours of gear operation during the first three open periods. Future fishing periods will be announced after harvest and effort information from the first two fishing periods have been assessed.

Shrimp pot gear may only be deployed and retrieved between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. during open fishing periods and may not be stored in the water or deployed prior to the opening of the season. A vessel operator may not have more than the legal limit of pot gear, in aggregate, on board the vessel or in the water at any time. Shrimp pots deployed on a longline with five or more pots, must have a buoy attached to each end of the longline (5AAC 31.226). After the fishing period or season closure shrimp pots may be stored in saltwater only if all bait and bait containers have been removed and all doors secured fully open and for no more than 14 days (5AAC 31.052). All shrimp pots must have a biodegradable escape mechanism as described in 5 AAC 39.145.

OTHER INFORMATION

Fishermen are reminded of the inseason **reporting and landing requirements** specified on the registration form and in regulation 5 AAC 31.245. Use the shrimp harvest report form supplied in the registration packet as a reference when calling the reporting line at (907) 424-7215 to ensure a complete report. All commercially harvested shrimp, whether sold or retained for personal use, must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket (5 AAC 39.130). A vessel operator intending to land shrimp outside of registration area must contact the department (907-424-3212) prior to departing Registration Area E and report the amount by weight of shrimp on board the vessel. A vessel registered for the fishery may not have shrimp on board the vessel after 72 hours following the closure of the fishing period or season (5 AAC 31.031).

A vessel used to tender shrimp must register with the department prior to operating in the fishery. Tenders may not have shrimp gear aboard or be used to fish for shrimp (5 AAC 31.033).

A person or vessel that has registered for the commercial shrimp pot fishery may not participate in sport, personal use, or subsistence fishing for shrimp unless the person ceases commercial fishing and the commercial registration for the vessel is cancelled by the department (5 AAC 31.227). Other regulations may apply; contact ADF&G at 907 424-3212 for further information. The requirements of this section are in addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 31.053.

Other regulations pertinent to the fishery are listed in Chapters 31 and 39 of the **2012-2015 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations** booklet available at department offices in Anchorage, Cordova, and Homer or at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

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